

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, last month's trade deficit hit another record, \$20 billion. One month, \$20 billion. If it keeps up, \$240 billion a year, a quarter of a trillion dollars.

Japan and China are now taking \$10 billion a month out of our economy. Beam me up. It is not going to stop because of our current Tax Code that rewards imports. I say it is time to throw out income taxes, throw out the IRS, and pass the national retail sales tax program. It will reward our exports.

Let us tell it like it is. Our Tax Code stinks so bad, if we sprayed it with Chanel No. 5, it would still smell like the Environmental Protection Agency.

I yield back 400,000 jobs lost last month due to our trade deficit.

#### LIFE 101 ORGAN DONATION PROGRAM

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, every 18 minutes a new name is added to the list of those who wait for an organ transplant. With the current supply of donors, unfortunately, someone dies every 2 hours and 24 minutes because an organ was not available. These are the grim statistics.

The University of Miami Organ Procurement Organization and the Transplant Foundation of South Florida, however, are doing something to improve these dismal numbers. They have undertaken a donor education program designed to target young audiences, helping them to understand at an early age the need for organ donations and the benefits of transplants.

This program, entitled "Life 101," has been presented at 58 high schools, reaching over 50,000 local area students in Miami-Dade and Broward County in South Florida.

This Friday, "Life 101" will be unveiling its new web site dedicated to providing an exciting and informative forum for students to learn more about organ donations. I encourage America's youth to visit their web site beginning Friday and learn how they can make the difference in the lives of others.

#### ORANGE COUNTY ONION FARMERS AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, in May of last year, New York's Hudson Valley farmers were hard hit by a severe hailstorm that devastated their crops. Particularly impacted were our onion growers.

Already facing difficulties due to a prior storm, our Orange County onion growers found themselves confronted by a new hardship. Their hardship was compounded by a failed Federal Government crop insurance program.

Most of our farmers who had no significant yields as a result of this storm were forced to zero out their crops. And when they applied for crop insurance, they found a cumbersome, poorly managed system that provided absolutely no relief.

Following last year's disaster, Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1999, appropriating \$5.9 billion for emergency assistance. To date, our farmers have not received one penny of these funds, while payments were made shortly after its enactment to dairy, to cotton, to wheat and hog farmers.

The Agriculture Department has not responded to our farmers' needs. Following this storm, starting in February, Secretary Glickman instituted a sign-up period for disaster funding, stating that the delay was due to working out a proper formula.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Secretary Glickman to release these funds immediately to prevent any further delay so that our growers may be able to continue their farming.

#### THANKS TO OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, just 3 days ago, I was in the war-torn region of Kosovo along with many of our colleagues from the House and Senate.

And, as a veteran of two wars, I know the great sacrifice that our U.S. military men and women are making for our country and for world peace. And I am thankful that I was able to travel to the Kosovo region to personally thank these brave soldiers, sailors, and airmen for their service to our great Nation.

I want to take this opportunity to reinforce my commitment to them in what may very well be the most trying time in their life. I thank them and America thanks them for having the courage to carry out this selfless duty to our country.

From both the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars, I am personally and gravely aware of the enormous challenges that these brave men and women face. Having been deployed far away from my family for countless weeks and months, I can relate to the myriad of emotions that these troops and their families must be experiencing during this very traumatic time in the world.

Our prayers and our full support are with them. May God speed and bring each of them home safely and as soon as possible.

#### STATE OF MONTANA WANTS TO BE PART OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

(Mr. HILL of Montana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, every day it seems that we get some good economic news: Unemployment is down, incomes are up, the stock market at a new high. But in parts of America that are not doing so well, my colleague from North Dakota often comes to the floor and talks about the increase, the record number of farm bankruptcies in his home State.

My home State of Montana now ranks last in the Nation with average income. Why has rural America been left out of this economic prosperity? Well, it is because our economy relies on agriculture and timber and mining and oil and gas, commodities, and it is because this administration has failed to pursue fair trade policies.

This administration has pursued extreme environmental policies that lock up our public land and our natural resources, and this administration has neglected the importance of international markets.

Mr. Speaker, we do not want to be left out. We want to be part of this prosperous economy, but we need common sense. We need a common sense agriculture policy. We need a common sense environmental policy. We need a common sense trade policy.

Mr. Speaker, bring us into this new economic prosperity.

#### DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today Senator TIM HUTCHINSON and I introduced the Dollars to the Classroom Act, to benefit schoolchildren and teachers all across this country in our public schools by directing that Federal funding for elementary and secondary education goes directly to classrooms and to teachers where the learning process actually takes place, by restricting how much money can be spent on bureaucracy.

By requiring that 95 cents of every Federal dollar gets into the classroom, the children and teachers of this Nation will see an additional \$870 million out of existing appropriations. That is \$10,000 per school, translating into \$450 for every single classroom in America.

I have with me a check that the Senate and House Members signed earlier today in the amount of \$870 million. We presented this directly to the children.

My colleagues have an opportunity to help bring needed change. Join me and the 127 cosponsors in sponsoring and introducing the Dollars to the Classroom Act today.

#### TOM LEYDEN, TEXAS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring special